



Robert Greene Sterne
Edward J. Kessler
Jorge A. Goldstein
David K.S. Cornwell
Robert W. Esmond
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Michele A. Cimbala
Michael B. Ray
Robert E. Sokohl
Eric K. Steffe
Michael Q. Lee
Steven R. Ludwig
John M. Covert
Linda E. Alcorn
Robert C. Millonig
Lawrence B. Bugaisky
Donald J. Featherstone
Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim
Timothy J. Shea, Jr.
Patrick E. Garrett
Heidi L. Kraus
Edward W. Yee
Albert L. Ferro*
Donald R. Banowit
Peter A. Jackman
Molly A. McCall
Teresa U. Medler
Jeffrey S. Weaver
Kendrick P. Patterson
Vincent L. Capuano
Eldora Ellison Floyd
Thomas C. Fiala
Brian J. Del Buono
Virgil Lee Beaston
Kimberly N. Reddick

Theodore A. Wood
Elizabeth J. Haanes
Joseph S. Ostroff
Frank R. Cottingham
Christine M. Lhulier
Rae Lynn Prengaman
Jane Shershenovich*
Lawrence J. Carroll*
George S. Bardmesser
Daniel A. Klein*
Jason D. Eisenberg
Michael D. Specht
Andrea J. Kamage
Tracy L. Muller*
LuAnne M. Yuricek*
John J. Figueroa
Ann E. Summerfield
Tiera S. Coston*

Aric W. Ledford*

Registered Patent Agents*

Karen R. Markowicz
Nancy J. Leith
Helene C. Carlson
Gaby L. Longworth
Matthew J. Dowd
Aaron L. Schwartz
Mary B. Tung
Katrina Y. Pei Quach
Bryan L. Skelton
Robert A. Schwartzman
Timothy A. Doyle
Jennifer R. Mahalingappa
Teresa A. Colella
Jeffrey S. Lundgren

Victoria S. Rutherford
Eric D. Hayes

Of Counsel
Kenneth C. Bass III
Evan R. Smith

*Admitted only in Maryland
*Admitted only in Virginia
•Practice Limited to
Federal Agencies

April 5, 2004

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
(202) 772-8525

INTERNET ADDRESS:
BRIAND@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit 1634

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/741,664; Filed: December 21, 2000
For: **Stable Compositions for Nucleic Acid Amplification and Sequencing**
Inventors: Rashtchian *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.3910003/BJD/SAC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Fee Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/17);
2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(1);
3. Credit Card Payment Form (Form PTO-2038);
4. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. 1.111; and
5. A return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
April 5, 2004
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

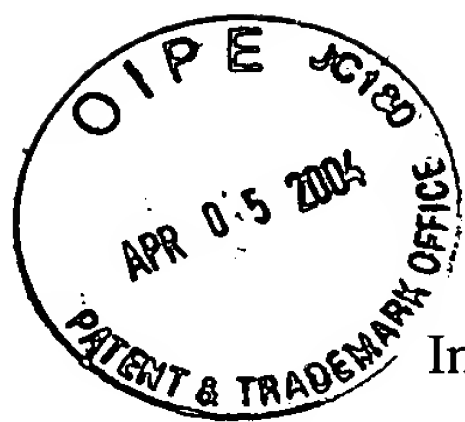
STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Del Buono", written over a horizontal line.

Brian J. Del Buono
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,473

BJD/SAC/tts
Enclosures

248665v1



Imate

16345
oe

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

RASHTCHIAN *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/741,664

Filed: December 21, 2000

For: **Stable Compositions for Nucleic
Acid Amplification and
Sequencing**

Confirmation No.: 7736

Art Unit: 1634

Examiner: Souaya, Jehanne E.

Atty. Docket: 0942.3910003/BJD/SAC

Amendment And Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated **November 5, 2003**, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
 - in ascending order;
 - with status identifiers; and
 - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No.